21 XVI.6.

# PRINCE RUPERT HIS Declaration.

AT LONDON.
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# PRINCE RVPERT HIS DECLARATION.

IT will seeme strange (no doubt) to see mee in Print, my knowne disposition being so contrary to this scribling Age: and sure I had not put my selfupon a Declaration, if in common prudence I could have done otherwise.

I need not tell the world (for it is too well knowne) what malitious lying Pamphlets are Printed against mee, almost every morning, whereby those busie men strive to render mee as odious as they would have Mee, against whom doubtlesse I had sooner declared, but that I well know this mutinous lying spirit would be easily convinced, but never silenced; which, as it ceaseth at no time, so it spares no person. And this was too manifest to mee, by those bold, odious, and impossible untruths, forged against His sacred Majestie, their owne King and Soveraigne (and my Gracious and Royall Unkle) who is onely guilty of this, that hee is too good to be their King; and to deale clearly, this was it furnished mee with sufficient patience, thinking it but reasonable, that I should be slandered as His Majestie.

But since it hath pleased my Lord *Wharton* to tell the whole City

of London openly at Guildhall, and since to tell it all the world in Print, that one great cause of their preservation at *Edge hill*, was the barbarousnesse and inhumanity of Prince *Rupert*, and his Troopers, that we spared neither man, woman, nor child, and the thing which we aime at is pillage and plundering, and the way which we would come by it is murthering & destroying: since such a charge as this comes from such a mouth, I hold my selfe bound in honour to speake and tell that Lord, that as much of his speech as concernes mee, is no truer then the rest of it, which for the most part is as false as any thing that hath been spoken or Printed in London these two yeares: and had I known his Lordships intention, I would have asked his reason either before or now at *Keinton*, if his Lordship had but stayed so long as to be asked the question.

But me thinke I heare the credulous people say, What? was not the Kings Standard rescued from them by force? Were there so many as 20. of our men killed by all the Kings Canons? Was not our right wing long under the power of their Canons, so as some 17. shot of Canon shot against them and yet not a man of ours so much as hurt? Nay, were there not 3000 slain of the Kings Army, and but 300. of ours? If these abominable untruths (with many more like them in his Lordships speech) be all true, then shall hee freely charge mee with barbarousnesse and inhumanity, but if these be most grosse falsities (as many thousand worthy Gentlemen will take their oathes they are) then I must professe I am sory that any Baron of the English Nation should utter such foule untruths, to deceive the poore abused Citizens of *London*, with false reports, and so slander us. 'Twas ever my opinion, that no valiant man would speake a knowne untruth; nor can I blame his Lordship or any others faint-heartednesse in so bad a cause as theirs is, which doubtlesse is the reason why such Noblemen, and Gentry in His Majesties Army, who hitherto had spent all their dayes in peace, could then fight so valiantly, *ex tempore*; not valuing their lives, and forgetting their dearest relations; so as our enemies in their hackney railing Pamphlets were forced to say, *The Cavaliers* (to give the devill his due) *fought very valiantly*. And in deed, had they not shewed rather too much valour, our enemies had lesse bottome whereon to found any untruths, wherof I take this relation to be one of their master-pieces of forgeries, for that they slew as many of ours as we did of theirs, is as true, as that they beat us at *Sherbourne Castle*, and at *Worcester*.

Now

Now for barbarouſneſſe and inhumanity to women and children, wherewith his Lordſhip and thoſe impudent unpuniſhed papers, cryed daily in the ſtreets, doe continually ſlander us; I muſt here profeſſe, that I take that man to be no Souldier or Gentleman, that will ſtrike (much leſſe kill) a woman or childe, if it be in his power to do the contrary: And I openly dare the moſt valiant and quick-ſighted of that lying Faction, to name the time, the perſon, or the houſe, where any childe or woman loſt ſo much as a haire from their head by me, or any of our Souldiers. In a battell where two Armies fight, many one hath unfortunately killed his deareſt friend, very often thoſe whom willingly he would otherwiſe have ſpared; and whether any woman or childe were killed in this fight, is more then I can juſtly ſay: I am ſorry if there were. I ſpeake not how wilfully barbarous their Souldiers were to the Counteſſe *Rivers*, to the Lady *Lucas* in *Eſſex*, and likewiſe to the like Perſons of quality in *Kent*, and other places. Whom have we ever puniſhed for ſpeaking againſt us, as they moſt Jewiſhly whipped to death a Citizen of *London*, for ſaying no more then what was included in His Majeſties Proclamation. But ſince the name plundering, whoſe monies? nay, whoſe Armes have wee taken away, unleſſe theirs; who actually had, or at leaſt declared they would uſe them againſt His Majeſties Army? And for that little cloth borrowed for our Souldiers, (wherewith their Pamphlets make ſuch a noyſe) His Majeſtie by Gods helpe will ſee it better paid for, then any thing they have taken upon publike *Faith*. What houſe have we ranſacked, as they did the Earle of *Northamptons*? mangling and cutting in pieces rich chaires, beds, ſtooles, and hangings; drinking as much and as long as they were able, and then letting the reſt runne out upon the floore, when as the very Earle of *Eſſex* his houſe at *Chartley* ſuffered not the leaſt dammage by us. What Churches have we defaced, as they did at *Canterbury*, *Oxford*, *Worceſter*, and many other places? Whoſe pockets have wee pickt ever to the value of three pence under pretence of ſearching for Letters, as they lately did in *Glouceſterſhire*, and particularly this laſt weeke at *Windſor*, and *Uxbridge*? Is it not their uſuall practice firſt to plunder a mans houſe of all Plate and Monies, and then impriſon him as a Delinquent, for no other fault but becauſe he ſtood loyall to his Prince; as if it were too little to take a mans eſtate, unleſſe alſo they rob him of his innocence?

nocence? Have they not now stuffed all the Prisons in *London* with Earles, Lords, Bishops, Judges, and Knights, Masters of Colledges, Lawyers and Gentlemen, of all conditions and Counties? for what (God knowes) they themselves know not: insomuch as now they are enforced to find new prisons for the Knights, Aldermen, and substantiall Citizens of *London*, who are now thrust in thither onely becausse they are suspected to love their King? Have they not by imprisonment or threats, muzzled the mouthes of the most grave, and learned Preachers of London, witnesse Doctor *Featley*, Doctor *Hayward*, Doctor *Holdsworth*, Master *Shute*, Master *Squire*, Master *Griffith*, and many others (for so I am informed these men are) because they Preach that which their conscience tells them is the knowne truth. And who are countenanced but ignorant and seditious teachers, who (like the Masse Priests of old) call mightily on the people for their plate, and money for their patrons and themselves? who, besides their daily Pulpits treasons, vent such other Divinity, as if *Luther* were living, he would blush to call them Protestants: And if this be not cruelty, injustice, tyranny, let God and Posterity judge: Now for any loosenesse or incivility in our Souldiers, more then what is accident and common to great Armies, I wish they would not mention it, lest some impartiall Readers, who know their courses, understand it to be meant by some of their great Reformers, who are that way as notoriously guilty as any: And for my selfe, I appeale to the consciences of those Lords and Gentlemen, who are my daily witnesses, and to those people where soever our Army hath beene, what they know, or have observed in my carriage, which might not become one of my quality, and the Sonne of a King. And whereas they slander us for Popish *Cavaliers*, I wish there were no more Papists in their Army then we have in ours; but to mee 'tis no wonder with what face they can slander us, for men disaffected to the Protestant religion, when as their grand Reformers refuse to come to Church. For His sacred Majesty, I have beene a frequent witnesse here in England (and all the world knowes he never shewed himselfe otherwise, and therefore hold it to be my part and duty to tell them that His Majestie is the most faithfull, & best Defender of the Protestant Religion of any Christian Prince in *Europe*, & is so accounted by all the Princes in Christendome. And what a gracious supporter hath he beene in particular to the Queene of *Bohemia* (my vertuous

tuous Royall mother ) and to the Prince Elector my Royall brother, no man can be ignorant of: if therefore in common gratitude, I do my utmoſt in defence of His Majeſtie, and that cauſe whereof hee hath hitherto beene ſo great and happy a patron; no ingenuous man but muſt thinke it moſt reaſonable. And for my ſelfe, the world knowes how deeply I have ſmarted, and what perils I have undergone for the Proteſtant cauſe, what ſtately large promiſes were offered mee would I conſent; and what a wretched cloſe impriſonment was threatned, if I refuſed to change my Religion, when I was captive to the Emperour of *Germany*, enough to ſatisfie any man of moderation: But if to be not ſufficient, I would to God all Engliſh men were at union among themſelves, then with what alacrity would I venture my life to ſerve this Kingdome againſt thoſe cruell Popiſh Rebels in Ireland: for though I will never fight in any unrighteous quarrell, yet to defend the King, Religion, & Lawes of a Kingdome againſt Subjects, who are up in Armes againſt their Lord and Soveraigne, and ſuch (all good wiſe men know this, and that of *Ireland* to be) though the pretence look ſeverall wayes: ſuch a cauſe my conſcience tells me is full of piety and juſtice, and if it pleaſe God to end my dayes in it, I ſhall think my laſt breath ſpent with as much honour and religion, as if I were taken off my knees at my prayers. I thinke there is none that take me for a Coward, for ſure I feare not the face of any man alive, yet I ſhall repute it the greateſt victory in the world to ſee His Majeſtie enter *London* in peace, without ſhedding one drop of bloud: where, I dare ſay (God and His Majeſtie are witneſſes, I lye not) no Citizen ſhould be plundered of one penny or farthing, whereby that ancient and famous Citie would manifeſtly perceive how deſperately it hath been abuſed by moſt ſtrange, falſe, and bottomleſſe untruthes, for which ſome body (without repentance) muſt bee aſhamed at the day of Judgement, if they eſcape a condigne legall puniſhment in this world. I therefore conclude with this open profeſſion (and I am confident our whole Army will ſay *Amen* unto it) he that hath any deſigne againſt the Proteſtant Religion, the Lawes of England, or hopes to enrich himſelfe by pillaging the Citie of *London*, let him be accurſt: And ſo, whether peace or warre, the Lord proſper the worke of their hands who ſtand for GOD and King CHARLES.

*RUPERT.*